

**DEAR READER** | According to the editorial tradition of the past 25 years, our thematic issue on sociology this year strives to synthesize the works of internationally renowned researchers and professors, the ‘middle’ generation of sociologists and entrant young researchers. This approach is one of the basic principles of our journal that is held in high esteem by our editorial board.

The present issue has a versatile content, but as a consequence of the research interests and research sites of our authors, it is oriented primarily to Middle-Europe. As we try to promote inter- and multidisciplinary especially in the case of young researchers, we follow and publish the results of other social sciences as well. We believe that sciences will soon transcend the old narrow disciplinary frameworks, thus we encourage our authors to integrate the conclusions and methods of related sciences in their works and we support within our capabilities experimental research projects with similar conception.

I recommend this thematic issue to all our readers in this spirit.

*PÁSZKA, IMRE*

Editor of the thematic issue

### — On the cover —

**Viewpoints, Perspectives** (Photo: Majzik, Andrea, 2012)

*The spiral staircase of the County Hall built in 1961. Before 1990, under the communist regime, the Csongrád County Council and the local unit of the communist party (MSZMP) functioned in this building. It was also the working place of the dreadful family of the region whose members were Mihály Komócsin (1895–1978), a founder of the Hungarian Communist Party and president of the County Council, Mihály Komócsin Jr. (1925–), president of the local then of the county communist party and Zoltán Komócsin (1923–1974), a leader of the national MSZMP. In the 1980s, Csongrád County was nicknamed ‘Pol Pot County’ by the opposition intellectuals because of the aggressive and ruthless rule of the Komócsin-clan. After the political transition in 1990, the civil organisations of the earlier political prisoners and the freely elected County Government were installed in this building. In 2012, university students who protested against the cutbacks in the higher education seized the building for one night and handed over their claims to the representatives of the actual government. (Jancsák, Csaba)*